

1 Time-lapse crosswell seismic and VSP monitoring of injected CO<sub>2</sub> in a  
2 brine aquifer  
3

4 Thomas M Daley\*, Larry R. Myer, J.E. Peterson, E.L. Majer, G.M. Hoversten

5 all at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 1 Cyclotron Rd., Berkeley, Ca., 94720, USA

6 \*[tmdaley@lbl.gov](mailto:tmdaley@lbl.gov)  
7

8 (Submitted to Environmental Geology, May 2006, revised Nov 2006)

9 Keywords: CO<sub>2</sub>, sequestration, VSP, crosswell, seismic

10 **Abstract**

11 Seismic surveys successfully imaged a small scale CO<sub>2</sub> injection (1600 tons) conducted  
12 in a brine aquifer of the Frio Formation near Houston, Texas. These time-lapse bore-  
13 hole seismic surveys, crosswell and vertical seismic profile (VSP), were acquired to  
14 monitor the CO<sub>2</sub> distribution using two boreholes (the new injection well and a pre-  
15 existing well used for monitoring) which are 30 m apart at a depth of 1500 m. The  
16 crosswell survey provided a high-resolution image of the CO<sub>2</sub> distribution between the  
17 wells via tomographic imaging of the P-wave velocity decrease (up to 500 m/s). The  
18 simultaneously acquired S-wave tomography showed little change in S-wave velocity,  
19 as expected for fluid substitution. A rock physics model was used to estimate CO<sub>2</sub> satu-  
20 rations of 10-20% from the P-wave velocity change. The VSP survey resolved a large  
21 (~70%) change in reflection amplitude for the Frio horizon. This CO<sub>2</sub> induced reflection  
22 amplitude change allowed estimation of the CO<sub>2</sub> extent beyond the monitor well and on

23 3 azimuths. The VSP result is compared with numerical modeling of CO<sub>2</sub> saturations  
24 and is seismically modeled using the velocity change estimated in the crosswell survey.

## 25 **Introduction**

26 The geologic storage of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted from fixed sources, such as coal or gas power  
27 plants, is currently considered one of the prime technologies for short term (~ 50 year)  
28 mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions (Pacala and Socolow, 2004). Saline aquifers  
29 are generally considered a prime candidate for large scale storage. Initial studies have  
30 shown that time-lapse borehole and surface seismic surveys can be used to estimated  
31 the location of injected CO<sub>2</sub> in brine aquifers as well as in oil and gas reservoirs (Arts et  
32 al. 2002; Hoversten et al. 2003; Gritto et al. 2004; Xue et al. 2005). Monitoring of in-  
33 jected CO<sub>2</sub> will likely be a necessary component of any long term storage program.  
34 Therefore, understanding the seismic response of saline aquifers to injected CO<sub>2</sub> is an  
35 important goal.

36 As part of a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) funded project on geologic sequestration  
37 of CO<sub>2</sub>, we acquired borehole seismic surveys before and after injection of about 1600  
38 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> into a saline aquifer. These time-lapse surveys consisted of crosswell and  
39 vertical seismic profile (VSP) experiments. These experiments were part of an inte-  
40 grated suite of scientific studies with many contributing institutions including the Texas  
41 Bureau of Economic Geology who performed the site selection process (Hovorka et al.  
42 2006).

43 The VSP and crosswell are intermediate scale (1 - 100's m) geophysical surveys provid-  
44 ing information in-between the large scale of surface seismic (km's) and the smaller  
45 scale of well logs and core measurements (mm to m). As such, they are useful tools for  
46 monitoring small scale injections and for understanding larger scale surface measure-  
47 ments. A summary of the VSP method and its uses is given in Balch and Lee (1984)  
48 and the crosswell method is described in Hardage (2000).

49 VSP and crosswell use different acquisition geometries, have different capabilities and  
50 are typically used for different goals. Figure 1a shows the VSP geometry has a surface  
51 source and borehole sensors recording direct and reflected energy. VSP data typically  
52 has higher resolution (about 10 - 30 m) than surface seismic (30 - 100 m) because the  
53 sensors are below the near surface, which is highly attenuative. Since VSP allows  
54 measurement of upgoing (reflected) and downgoing (direct) waves within the borehole  
55 depth range, it improves the tie of surface seismic to borehole measurements. The up-  
56 going waves are those reflected from interfaces and correspond to the reflections im-  
57 aged with surface seismic. Figure 1b shows the crosswell geometry, which has borehole  
58 sources and borehole sensors. The crosswell survey has higher resolution (about 1-5  
59 m) because the subsurface source allows higher frequency propagation over (typically)  
60 shorter distances than surface source data. However the crosswell is limited to the in-  
61 terwell volume while the VSP can potentially image on any azimuth. Crosswell acqui-  
62 sition allows tomographic imaging of seismic velocity between the boreholes.

63

64 Crosswell seismic methods have been successfully applied to CO<sub>2</sub> injection monitoring,  
65 initially as part of enhanced oil recovery (EOR) (e.g. Harris et al.1995; Lazaratos and  
66 Marion 1997; Gritto et al. 2004) and more recently as part of a sequestration pilot test  
67 (Xue et al. 2005; Spetzler et al. 2006). These studies were successful in detecting  
68 changes in seismic velocity caused by CO<sub>2</sub> injection into reservoirs. In the case of oil  
69 reservoirs the interpretation can be more difficult because of multi phase fluids (e.g.  
70 methane, brine, oil and CO<sub>2</sub>, as described in Hoversten et al. 2003). In sequestration  
71 pilots, the CO<sub>2</sub> is typically injected into brine aquifers (Arts et al. 2002; Xue et al. 2005).  
72 Xue et al. (2005) found a velocity reduction of about 3% from crosswell tomography and  
73 a reduction of up to 23% at the well bore via sonic logging. Arts et al. (2002) present  
74 surface seismic monitoring results that show reflection amplitude change in the CO<sub>2</sub>  
75 injection volume. The VSP method is useful for interpreting surface seismic and was  
76 used in this way at the Weyburn field CO<sub>2</sub> EOR project (Majer et al. 2006).

77 The goals of the crosswell survey were to spatially map the CO<sub>2</sub> between the wells us-  
78 ing P- and S-wave velocity tomographic imaging, and to use these properties to esti-  
79 mate the CO<sub>2</sub> saturation between the wells. The goals of the VSP were to spatially map  
80 the CO<sub>2</sub> beyond the well pair and to image nearby structures such as faults. The time-  
81 lapse VSP and crosswell surveys were acquired together, with pre-injection surveys in  
82 July 2004 and post-injection surveys in late November 2004, about 1.5 months after the  
83 CO<sub>2</sub> injection.

84 In the following sections we will describe the geologic background, the data acquisition  
85 and analysis, interpretation of the results and then give a summary and conclusions.

86

## 87 **Site Background and Characterization**

88 The Frio site was chosen for a small scale pilot test of CO<sub>2</sub> injection into a brine aquifer  
89 specifically to study sequestration issues. The pilot study had goals to safely inject an-  
90 thropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>, model the expected flow, sample the fluid in an up-dip observation  
91 well and monitor the resulting plume (Hovorka et al. 2006). The selection and charac-  
92 terization of the Frio site, along with stratigraphic figures, has been described in Ho-  
93 vorka et al. (2006) and in this issue (Doughty et al. 2006) and will be summarized here.

94 The injection site was selected in 2003 after characterization of 21 representative saline  
95 formations in the onshore United States. The selected aquifer is part of the on-shore  
96 Gulf of Mexico Frio formation sandstone, near Houston, TX. The experimental site is in  
97 an oil field, where site access, use of an idle well as an observation well, wireline well  
98 logs, 3-D seismic, and production data were donated by the operator, Texas American  
99 Resources. A new well was drilled for injection about 30 m offset from the existing ob-  
100 servation well. The CO<sub>2</sub> injection took place over 10 days in October 2004 with about  
101 1600 tons of supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> injected into the upper C-sand of the Frio Formation at a  
102 depth of 1528.5 - 1534.7 m (5015 to 5030 ft). The downhole pressure was about 150  
103 bars with about 2-3 bar variation during injection (Hovorka et al. 2006). The downhole  
104 temperature was about 55°C. At these conditions the CO<sub>2</sub> is in a supercritical liquid

105 state with density of 653 kg/m<sup>3</sup> and P-wave velocity of 335 m/s (National Institute of  
106 Standards and Technology 2006). The injected CO<sub>2</sub> is expected to displace the brine  
107 with some amount dissolving into the brine.

108 Sandstones of the Oligocene Frio Formation are a potential target for large-volume stor-  
109 age because they are part of a thick, regionally extensive sandstone trend that underlies  
110 a concentration of industrial sources and power plants along the Gulf Coast of the  
111 United States. Detailed characterization was conducted using traditional reservoir as-  
112 sessment tools. From this characterization, a numerical reservoir model was created  
113 using LBNL's TOUGH2 code (Pruess 2004; Doughty et al. 2006). Geologically con-  
114 strained numerical models of injection and monitoring scenarios were prepared and  
115 used to optimize the experimental design, well locations and completion, and monitoring  
116 tool selection. The upper Frio in the study area is composed of northwest-southeast-  
117 elongated fluvial sandstone separated by mudstones and shales that can be correlated  
118 over the field but not regionally. The upper Frio "C," "B," and "A" (in lower to upper  
119 stratigraphic order) sandstones are part of a trend of fluvial sandstones that were in-  
120 creasingly reworked beneath the regionally extensive 60-m-thick (200-ft) shales and  
121 mudstones of the overlying Anahuac Formation. The selected injection zone, the upper  
122 half of the Frio "C" sandstone, is a 22.8-m (75-ft) upward-fining, fine-grained, poorly in-  
123 durated, well-sorted sandstone. The upper part of the "C" sandstone has porosities of  
124 30 to 35% and permeabilities of 2,000 to 2,500 md (Hovorka et al. 2006). The top "C"  
125 seal is composed of shale, sands, and siltstones that form a minor seal beneath the re-

126 gional Anahuac Shale but probably a major barrier to vertical flow out of the “C” sand-  
127 stone.

128 Structural analysis of the injection interval using logs and 3-D seismic shows that the  
129 upper Frio Formation at the test site is within a fault-bounded compartment that is part  
130 of a system of radial faults above a nearby salt dome. Dips within the injection com-  
131 partment are steep. Hand-picked interpretation of the FMI (formation microimager) log  
132 by Schlumberger measured dips of 18 degrees to the south at the injection well; inter-  
133 well correlation measured an average dip of 16 degrees south (Hovorka et al. 2006).

134

## 135 **Seismic Data Acquisition**

136 The data acquisition description is divided into sensors, sources and recording system.  
137 For sensors, both the VSP and crosswell surveys used an 80-level 3-component,  
138 clamping geophone string, which was supplied by Paulsson Geophysical and was de-  
139 ployed on special tubing. Each of the 80 3-component sensors was independently  
140 clamped to the borehole wall, allowing measurement of ground motion (velocity). The  
141 sensors were spaced every 7.6 m (25 ft) along the string, so the 80 sensors spanned  
142 610 m (2000 ft) of the borehole. Figure 2 shows the deployment depths of the sensor  
143 string. The 3-component sensors allowed optimal measurement of compressional (P)  
144 and shear (S) waves, which are orthogonally polarized.

145 For the crosswell survey, the source was an orbital vibrator, supplied by LBNL. The or-  
146 bital vibrator source is an eccentric mass rotated by an electric motor. The source is  
147 wireline operated and fluid coupled to the surrounding formation. The rate of rotation is  
148 linearly varied from 0 to 350 Hz and back to stop. Useable energy is acquired above  
149 about 70 Hz, giving a 70 to 350 Hz bandwidth. At each source location a clockwise and  
150 counter clockwise sweep is recorded. Decomposition of these two sweeps provides two  
151 equivalent sources with orthogonal horizontal oscillations (Daley and Cox 2001). Com-  
152 ponent rotation using P-wave particle motion rotates these two sources into in-line and  
153 cross-line equivalents, with in-line being horizontal and in the plane of the two bore-  
154 holes. This rotation results in a 6-component receiver gather with in-line and cross-line  
155 sources for the vertical and two horizontal receiver components. The in-line source gen-  
156 erates predominantly P-wave energy while the cross-line source generates predomi-  
157 nantly S-wave energy. Consistent generation of both P- and S-waves is a notable fea-  
158 ture of the orbital vibrator source.

159 In the crosswell survey, both the source and receiver spacing was 1.5 m, with the  
160 sources spanning 75 m and the sensors spanning 300 m (only the deepest 40 of the 80  
161 sensors were recorded in the crosswell survey). The sensor string was moved five  
162 times at 1.5 m intervals to give 1.5 m sensor spacing from the 7.6 m fixed spacing. Five  
163 source 'fans' (all source depths for each of 5 sensor string locations) were thus acquired  
164 in the crosswell survey. The survey was conducted using the injection well for sensors  
165 and the monitoring well for sources. Source and sensor locations were centered on the  
166 injection interval.



167 The VSP used the same 80 level, 3-component geophone string with explosive sources.  
168 The explosive shot holes were about 18 m (60 ft.) deep. A single shot with about 3.5 lbs  
169 of seismic explosive was recorded for each sensor string location at each shot point.  
170 Eight shot points were acquired (Figure 3). The sensors were interleaved to give spac-  
171 ings of 1.5 to 7.5 m (partially because of the needs of the crosswell recording). Smaller  
172 sensor spacing has the advantage of increasing spatial sampling and therefore in-  
173 creasing the spatial resolution of subsurface changes. The shotpoints were offset 100 to  
174 1500 m from the sensor well. The locations of the VSP shotpoints were chosen to moni-  
175 tor the estimated CO<sub>2</sub> plume location (sites 1-4 in Figure 3) and to provide structural in-  
176 formation at the injection site (sites 5-9 in Figure 3). Other sites were planned but not  
177 obtained due to permitting issues and local flooding. These sites (one to the Northeast  
178 and one to the South, would have allowed imaging to larger offsets (about 500 m) on  
179 these azimuths.

180

## 181 **Data Processing and Analysis**

182 The processing of the VSP focused on time lapse change in reflection amplitude of the  
183 reservoir horizon. Initial processing included applying time shifts to correct for shot  
184 variations (as measured with a surface geophone at each shot point), picking of arrival  
185 times at each depth, separation of down-going and up-going (reflected) wavefields, con-  
186 verting reflections to two-way travel time and enhancing the reflected energy signal us-  
187 ing frequency-wavenumber filters. A description of these standard VSP processing de-

188 tails is given in Yilmaz (1987). Following these processing steps, an amplitude equaliza-  
189 tion was applied using a reflection above the reservoir (the 'control' reflection labeled in  
190 Figure 4. This equalization assumes that amplitude changes in a reflector are due to  
191 shallow sub-surface changes (such as soil moisture saturation) or changes in the seis-  
192 mic source amplitude. Therefore the amplitude change measured in the shallow reflec-  
193 tor is subtracted from all the data. Following this equalization, the time-lapse change in  
194 the reservoir reflection can be analyzed. The result from source site 1 is shown in Figure  
195 4 where we see a clear increase in the reflection strength from the Frio formation. Simi-  
196 lar results have been found from the sites 2, 3 and 4. For the VSP geometry, the reflec-  
197 tion recorded at each sensor in the well originates at a different reflection point, so we  
198 are able to estimate the variation in reflection strength with offset along the azimuth be-  
199 tween source and borehole. The VSP reflection change along three azimuths has been  
200 spatially mapped using ray tracing (similar to Figure 1a) to give an estimate of the re-  
201 flection point location. Comparison of the VSP result with numerical modeling of CO<sub>2</sub>  
202 saturation will be discussed in the following interpretation section.

203 Before tomographic imaging, the travel times for P- and S-waves are determined. Typi-  
204 cally the data is sorted into different 'gathers' with a common source depth, common  
205 sensor depth, or common source-sensor vertical offset. An example common offset  
206 gather of seismograms in Figure 5 shows good quality P- and S-wave direct arrivals,  
207 allowing velocity tomography. The travel times were picked manually using the in-line  
208 source and in-line sensor for P-wave and the cross-line source and cross-line sensor for  
209 S-wave. During the post-injection travel time picking, a large change in waveforms was

210 observed in the injection zone (seen in Figure 5). This change was interpreted as  
211 'guided waves' generated by a newly formed (and CO<sub>2</sub> induced) seismic low-velocity  
212 zone. Because guided waves do not follow the ray-theory used in standard tomographic  
213 inversion, travel times within the guided-wave zone were not used for inversion of time-  
214 lapse changes. Using the remaining picked travel times, tomographic imaging of velocity  
215 was performed.

216 The tomography processing had the following details: limited ray angles (no ver-  
217 tical offsets greater than 100 m), correction for the deviation of the boreholes from verti-  
218 cal (about 3-5 m of lateral offset), a straight ray projection, and a static correction to al-  
219 low for borehole effects. Importantly, the data were inverted for the change in velocity,  
220 rather than inverting for each velocity field and then differencing. In this method the  
221 data input to the tomographic inversion is the travel time difference (postinjection time  
222 minus preinjection time) for each source-receiver pair. Typically, time-lapse tomography  
223 is done by computing two tomographic inversions with each travel time data set (the  
224 preinjection and the post injection) separately input to the tomographic inversion. By in-  
225 verting the difference data, some potential errors (such as source and sensor locations)  
226 are minimized or eliminated (Ajo-Franklin et al. 2006; Spetzler 2006). The inversion al-  
227 gorithm is an algebraic reconstruction as described in Peterson et al. (1985). The inver-  
228 sion used a 2 m x 2m pixel size, with plotting interpolated to 0.5 m. The maximum spa-  
229 tial resolution is thus about 2m. Figure 6 shows the tomographic image of P- and S-  
230 wave velocity change. The P-wave tomogram shows a clear zone of change in the in-  
231 jection interval with P-wave velocity decreasing over 500 m/s in some pixels. The S-

232 wave tomogram shows only small changes except for a small region near the injection  
233 zone where the S-wave velocity is reduced by up to 200 m/s.

234 Figure 7 shows a more detailed view of the P-wave velocity change within the injection  
235 zone, along with the well logs indicating CO<sub>2</sub> saturation near the boreholes. The well  
236 logs are Schlumberger's reservoir saturation tool (RST) (Adolph, et al., 1994). The CO<sub>2</sub>  
237 plume is clearly imaged by the velocity change, and the spatial agreement between the  
238 well logs and the tomograms provides mutual corroboration to each of these two inde-  
239 pendent measures of CO<sub>2</sub>. Several attributes of the CO<sub>2</sub> induced change in seismic ve-  
240 locity can be observed via the tomogram and will be discussed in the interpretation sec-  
241 tion.

## 242 **Interpretation**

243 The injection of CO<sub>2</sub> causes a fluid substitution within the pore space. For fluid substitu-  
244 tion with no change in matrix properties, a change in P-wave velocity is expected due to  
245 the change in bulk modulus (compressibility) with a minimal change in S-wave velocity  
246 expected due to the lack of change in shear modulus (which is a property of the rock  
247 matrix and not affected by pore fluid). Time-lapse tomographic imaging did map  
248 changes in P-wave velocity (over 500 m/s) due to the CO<sub>2</sub> plume (Figure 7). The S-  
249 wave velocity decrease near the injection well implies that there was some change in  
250 rock matrix properties (the shear modulus) in the near well region which was induced by  
251 the CO<sub>2</sub> injection. Overall, the lack of S-wave change confirms that the observed P-  
252 wave change is caused by fluid substitution of CO<sub>2</sub> for brine. The small change in

253 pressure (about 3 bars) has a very minimal effect on velocity (about 1-10 m/s) due to  
254 the effective stress change. We can therefore interpret the following observations of ve-  
255 locity change in terms of  $\text{CO}_2$  saturation. 1) The velocity change follows the dip of the  
256 stratigraphy. This observation is expected for  $\text{CO}_2$  with buoyancy causing up-dip migra-  
257 tion. 2) The velocity change is not homogeneous between the wells, with a larger  
258 change, and therefore a larger residual  $\text{CO}_2$  saturation, in the downdip half of the to-  
259 mogram. 3) The velocity change does not reach the actual top of the C-sand, which is  
260 in agreement with observed permeability reduction near the top of the sand. 4) The ve-  
261 locity change on the right half of the tomogram is somewhat layered with a larger  
262 change in the lower part (about 3 m thick) of the plume. This observation implies that  
263 the lower part of the plume has higher saturations, presumably due to the presence of a  
264 low permeability zone in the center or upper part of the plume.

265 Quantitative estimation of  $\text{CO}_2$  saturation (the fractional part of the pore space filled  
266 with  $\text{CO}_2$ ) from the change in seismic velocity is an ultimate goal, and such estimates  
267 can be obtained using a rock physics model. For our site, core studies typically used to  
268 build a rock physics model have not yet been performed and the unconsolidated sand  
269 limited core recovery. Similarly, well log measurement of seismic velocity, which could  
270 be closely tied to well log estimates of saturation (the RST log), failed to give useable  
271 results for post-injection in the injection zone. Nonetheless, quantitative  $\text{CO}_2$  saturation  
272 estimates from seismic measurements using a rock physics model allow estimation of  
273 saturation in the interwell volume. Without site specific calibration we use results from  
274 similar high porosity sands such as used in Carcione et al. (2006). The resulting uncer-

275 tainty is difficult to quantify but is probably in the range of 10% in saturation (based on  
276 variation with model parameters). We have built a rock physics model using recent work  
277 of Hoversten et al. (2003) with data from Carcione et al. (2006) (using the Utsira sand)  
278 and a model of fluid mixing proposed by Brie et al. (1995) to estimate the CO<sub>2</sub> saturation  
279 from the seismic velocity. The CO<sub>2</sub> saturation is shown in Figure 8 where see  
280 saturations are estimated at about 20% in the region near the injection well and de-  
281 crease to about 10% or less near the monitoring well. The CO<sub>2</sub> plume is about 5 m  
282 thick with the highest saturations (up to 20%) extending 15 m from the injection well.  
283 The lower half of the plume has higher concentrations, implying vertical heterogeneity  
284 (variation in permeability or porosity). The vertical variation is at the limit of the tomo-  
285 graphic resolution (2 m), so greater detailed interpretation of the vertical heterogeneity is  
286 not possible. The saturation values are less than those observed in the RST, although  
287 the RST is a near-borehole measurement, not necessarily representative of the interwell  
288 region, and the RST had calibration problems for measurements made after the seismic  
289 surveys (Hovorka et al. 2006).

290 Interpretation of the VSP is focused on the large change in reflection amplitude and cal-  
291 culating this change as a function of offset from the injection well along each azimuth of  
292 a VSP source. Because we do not have an estimate of saturation directly from reflec-  
293 tion strength, we compare the VSP result to the numerical model estimate of saturation.  
294 Figure 9 shows the offset dependent reflection change for a single azimuth with a com-  
295 parison to the CO<sub>2</sub> saturation estimated at the same offset and azimuth using the  
296 TOUGH2 numerical flow model to estimate the spatial distribution of CO<sub>2</sub> saturation

297 (Doughty et al. this issue). We see a good qualitative agreement of the plume extent,  
298 about 80 m radially. Figure 10 shows this same comparison on three azimuths, North,  
299 Northwest and Northeast. We see the agreement is good to the North, moderate to the  
300 Northeast and worse to the Northwest. Since the numerical model is laterally and azi-  
301 muthally homogeneous (allowing for formation dip), the disagreement indicates lateral  
302 heterogeneity imaged by the VSP which is not captured in the model.

303 The large VSP reflection response was somewhat unexpected because of the thinness  
304 of the CO<sub>2</sub> plume (about 5-7 m thick at 1500 m depth), and uncertainty in the expected  
305 velocity change. To verify the VSP result is consistent with the velocity change meas-  
306 ured in the crosswell survey, we developed a numerical seismic model. The modeling  
307 used a 2-D elastic, finite-difference wave propagation code on a 201 by 652 grid with 5  
308 m grid points (1 km by 3.3 km) and a 30 Hz center frequency. The initial 2-D velocity  
309 structure was built using horizons mapped from previous surface seismic, velocities  
310 measured by the pre-injection VSP, and velocity and density measured by pre-injection  
311 well logs. VSP data was generated using this pre-injection model. Two 'post-injection'  
312 VSP data sets were then calculated. The 'time-lapse' VSP response was calculated us-  
313 ing the same processing as the field data, with the exception of amplitude calibration to  
314 a shallower reflection, which is unnecessary for numerical data with no shallow  
315 changes.

316 To obtain the post-injection model, we first applied the change in velocity, as mapped by  
317 the crosswell tomogram, to the 30 m wide zone between wells. This result un-

derestimated the reflection amplitude change measured by the VSP. We then extended the velocity change beyond the wells using a 400 m/s velocity decrease (typical of that seen in the crosswell tomogram) applied to a 4 m thick zone over the horizontal distance predicted to contain CO<sub>2</sub> by the numerical flow modeling. This result overestimated the reflection amplitude change. These two modeled time-lapse VSP responses are shown in Figure 11, where we see that they bound the field measurement. This result demonstrates that velocity changes, on the order of those imaged by crosswell tomography, when they are extended beyond the interwell region, are able to generate the large reflection amplitude change observed in the VSP.

327

## 328 **Conclusions**

329 Sixteen hundred tons of CO<sub>2</sub> were injected into a brine aquifer at a depth of 1500 m at  
330 the Frio pilot site. Borehole seismic data, both VSP and crosswell, were acquired.  
331 Analysis of these time-lapse surveys provided in-situ estimates of the spatial distribution  
332 of injected CO<sub>2</sub>, with high resolution tomographic imaging between injection and monitoring  
333 wells (crosswell), and lower resolution VSP reflection imaging at larger distances,  
334 on different azimuths. The crosswell tomogram shows seismic P-wave velocity decreases  
335 up to 500 m/s, while the S-wave velocity shows minimal change. The spatial  
336 change in P-wave velocity can be interpreted for details of the CO<sub>2</sub> saturation distribution,  
337 including buoyant up-dip flow with some layering and less change in velocity on the  
338 up-dip half of the tomogram, indicating permeability heterogeneity. Initial development of



339 a rock physics model allows estimates of CO<sub>2</sub> saturation between the wells from the  
340 crosswell tomogram. The VSP results, using changes in reflection amplitude from the  
341 injection horizon, show a large increase (up to 70%) and show azimuthal variation, also  
342 indicating CO<sub>2</sub> flow heterogeneity. Numerical modeling of the VSP response uses the  
343 crosswell measurements to show that velocity changes seen in the interwell volume can  
344 cause the large response in the VSP reflectivity change if the velocity change is ex-  
345 tended beyond the wells. It is reasonable to infer that the large reflection response seen  
346 in the VSP would allow surface seismic monitoring of similar CO<sub>2</sub> plumes, allowing  
347 monitoring of small plumes away from boreholes. This result demonstrates that small  
348 CO<sub>2</sub> plumes (such as those migrating away from a major injection) are detectable in sa-  
349 line aquifers.

350

#### 351 **Acknowledgments:**

352 This work was supported by the GEOSEQ project for the Assistant Secretary for Fossil  
353 Energy, Office of Coal and Power Systems through the National Energy Technology  
354 Laboratory, of the US Department of Energy, under Contract No.DE-AC02-05CH11231.  
355 The CO<sub>2</sub> flow modeling results were prepared by Chris Doughty of LBNL. Thanks to  
356 Susan Hovorka and Sally Benson for management of the Frio and GEOSEQ projects,  
357 respectively, and their support of the geophysics program. Thanks to Don Lippert, Cecil  
358 Hoffpauir and Rob Trautz for their important contributions to the data acquisition.

359 Thanks to Bjorn Paulsson of P/GSI . Thanks to the editors and anonymous reviewers for  
360 helpful comments and corrections.

361

362 **References:**

363 Adolph B, Stoller C., Brady J., Flaum C., Melcher C., Roscoe B., Vittachi A. (1994) Satu-  
364 ration monitoring with the RST Reservoir Saturation Tool. Oilfield Review 6:29-38.

365 Ajo-Franklin J.B., Urban J, Harris J.M. (2006) Temporal Integration of Seismic  
366 Traveltime Tomography. Society of Exploration Geophysicists Annual Meeting, Ex-  
367 panded Abstracts 25:2468.

368 Arts R., Elsayed R., Van Der Meer L., Eiken O., Ostmo O., Chadwick A., Kirby G. and  
369 Zinszner B. (2002) Estimation of the Mass of Injected CO<sub>2</sub> at Sleipner Using Time-  
370 Lapse Seismic Data. paper H-16, EAGE 64th Annual Conference.

371 Balch A.H. and Lee M.W., (ed) (1984) Vertical Seismic Profiling: Technique, Applica-  
372 tions, and Case Histories. International Human Resources Development Corporation,  
373 Boston, MA.

374 Brie A., Pampuri F., Marsala A.F., and Meazza O. (1995) Shear sonic interpretation in  
375 gas-bearing sands. SPE Annual Technical Conf., 30595:701-710.

376

377 Carcione J.M., Picotti S., Gei D., Rossi G. (2006) Physics and Seismic Modeling for  
 378 Monitoring CO<sub>2</sub> Storage. Pure and Applied Geophysics 163:175 – 207 DOI  
 379 10.1007/s00024-005-0002-1.  
 380  
 381 Daley T.M. and Cox D. (2001) Orbital vibrator seismic source for simultaneous P- and  
 382 S-wave crosswell acquisition. Geophysics 66:1471-1480.  
 383  
 384 Gritto R., T.M. Daley and L.R. Myer (2004) Joint cross-well and single-well seismic stud-  
 385 ies at Lost Hills, California. Geophysical Prospecting 52:323-339  
 386  
 386 Hardage B.A. (2000) Vertical Seismic Profiling: Principles, Handbook of Geophysical  
 387 Exploration: Seismic Exploration, 14, Elsevier.  
 388  
 388 Harris J.M., Nolen-Hoeksema R.C., Langan R.T., Van Schaack M., Lazaratos S.K.,  
 389 Rector J.W. (1995) High-resolution crosswell imaging of a west Texas carbonate reser-  
 390 voir: Part1-Project summary and interpretation. Geophysics 60:667-681.  
 391  
 391 Hoversten G., M., Gritto R., Washbourne J., Daley T. M, (2003) Pressure and Fluid  
 392 Saturation Prediction in a Multicomponent Reservoir, using Combined Seismic and  
 393 Electromagnetic Imaging. Geophysics 68:1580-1591.  
 394  
 395 Hovorka S.D., Benson S.M., Doughty C., Friefeld B.M., Sakurai S., Daley T.M. (2006)  
 396 Measuring permanence of CO<sub>2</sub> storage in saline formations: the Frio experiment. Envi-  
 397 ronmental Geosciences 13:1-17 DOI:10.1306/eg.11210505011

398 Lazaratos S.K., and Marion B.P. (1997) Crosswell seismic imaging of reservoir changes  
 399 caused by CO2 injection. The Leading Edge 16:1300-1306.

400 Majer E.L., Daley T.M., Korneev V., Cox D., Peterson J.E. (2006) Cost-effective imaging  
 401 of CO2 injection with borehole seismic methods. The Leading Edge, 25, p1290.

402 National Institute of Standards and Technology (2006), Thermophysical Properties of  
 403 Carbon Dioxide. <http://webbook.nist.gov/cgi/fluid.cgi?ID=C124389&Action=Page> Cited  
 404 Nov 17, 2006.

405 Pacala S., and Socolow R. (2004) Stabilization Wedges: Solving the Climate Problem  
 406 for the Next 50 Years with Current Technologies. Science 305:968-972.

407 Peterson, J.E. Paulsson B.N. and McEvilly T.V. (1985) Applications of algebraic recon-  
 408 struction techniques to crosshole seismic data. Geophysics 50:1566-1580.

409 Pruess K. (2004) The TOUGH Codes - A Family of Simulation Tools for Multiphase  
 410 Flow and Transport Processes in Permeable Media. Vadose Zone Journal 3:738-746.

411 Spetzler J., (2006) Time-Lapse Seismic Crosswell Monitoring of Steam Injection in Tar  
 412 Sand, Society of Exploration Geophysicists Annual Meeting, Expanded Abstracts v25,  
 413 p3120.

414

415 Spetzler J., Xue Z., Saito H., Nobuoka D., Hiroyuki A., Nishizawa O. (2006) Time-Lapse  
 416 Seismic Crosswell Monitoring of Co2 injected in an Onshore Sandstone Aquifer. Society  
 417 of Exploration Geophysicists Annual Meeting, Expanded Abstracts 25:3285.

418 Yilmaz O. (1981) Seismic Data Processing. Investigations in Geophysics no. 2, Society  
419 of Explorations Geophysicists.

420

421 Xue Z., Tanase D., Saito H., Nobuoka D., Watanabe J (2005) Time-lapse crosswell  
422 seismic tomography and well logging to monitor the injected CO<sub>2</sub> in an onshore aquifer.

423 Nagaoka, Japan, Society of Exploration Geophysicists Annual Meeting, Expanded Ab-  
424 stracts 24:1433.

425

425 Figure Captions:

426 Figure 1a (left) Schematic of VSP data acquisition with direct raypaths (yellow), reflected  
427 raypaths (blue), and boreholes (yellow and purple vertical lines)

428 1b) (right) Schematic of crosswell acquisition with sensors (green) and sources (red) in  
429 separate boreholes (yellow and purple) with raypaths in yellow.

430 Figure 2. Sensor string deployment depths with each line segment representing one  
431 deployment. FFID is the field file identification number. For the crosswell deployments  
432 only the bottom half of the sensors were recorded.

433 Figure 3. VSP shot point locations along with the two wells (in light blue).

434 Figure 4. VSP reflection amplitude comparison. A large increase in amplitude is ob-  
435 served for the Frio reflection. The control reflection is the one used for amplitude nor-  
436 malization between surveys.

437 Figure 5. Comparison of zero-offset gathers from the crosswell survey. A decrease in  
438 travel time within the injection zone can be observed.

439 Figure 6. Tomographic image of P-wave velocity change (left) and S-wave velocity  
440 change (right) from the crosswell survey.

441 Figure 7. Detailed view of the injection region of the P-wave tomogram along with RST  
442 logs for each well. The RST log had multiple runs with the change shown in yellow.

443 Figure 8. CO<sub>2</sub> saturation estimated from the P-wave velocity change using a rock phys-  
444 ics model.

445 Figure 9. VSP reflection amplitude change compared with CO<sub>2</sub> saturation estimated by  
446 flow modeling, as a function of offset from the injection well on the Northern azimuth.

447 Figure 10 VSP reflection amplitude change compared with CO<sub>2</sub> saturation estimated by  
448 flow modeling, as a function of offset from the injection well on three azimuths.

449 Figure 11. Numerical modeling of VSP reflection amplitude change compared to field  
450 data. The model using the predicted plume extent extends the velocity change over  
451 more than 130 m laterally, While the variable change model only had velocity change  
452 between the wells (about 30 m).

453

454

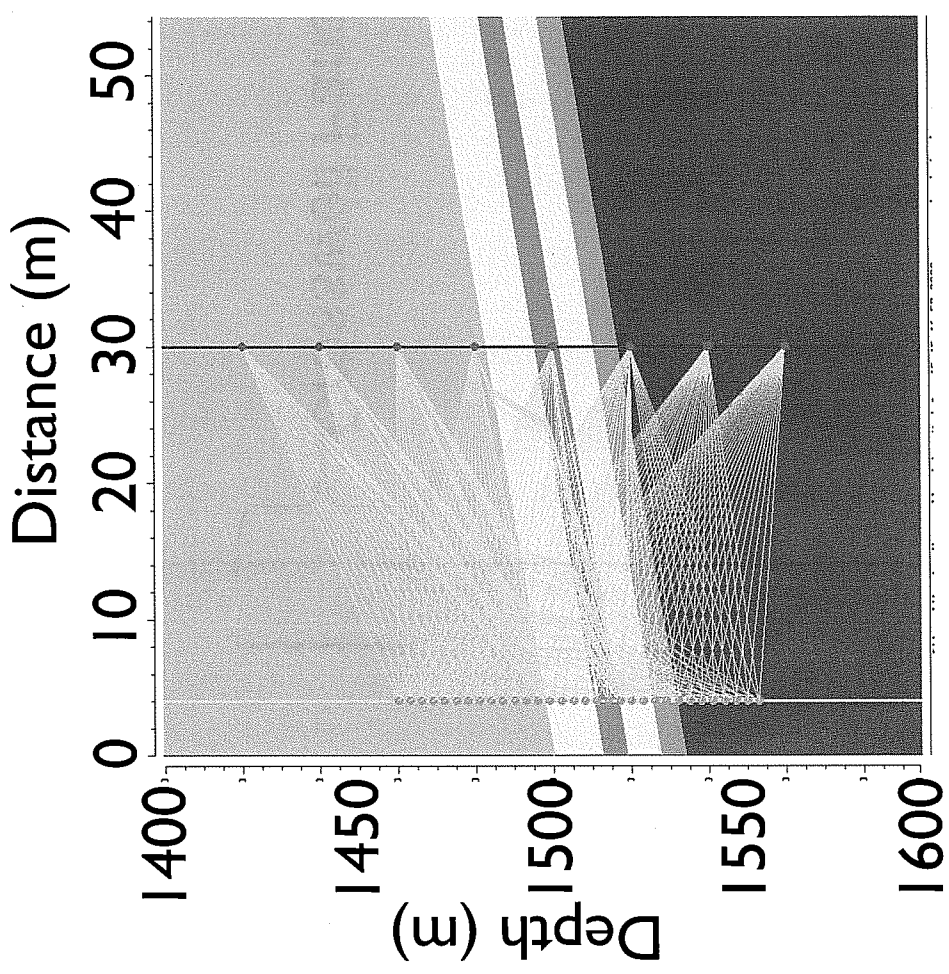
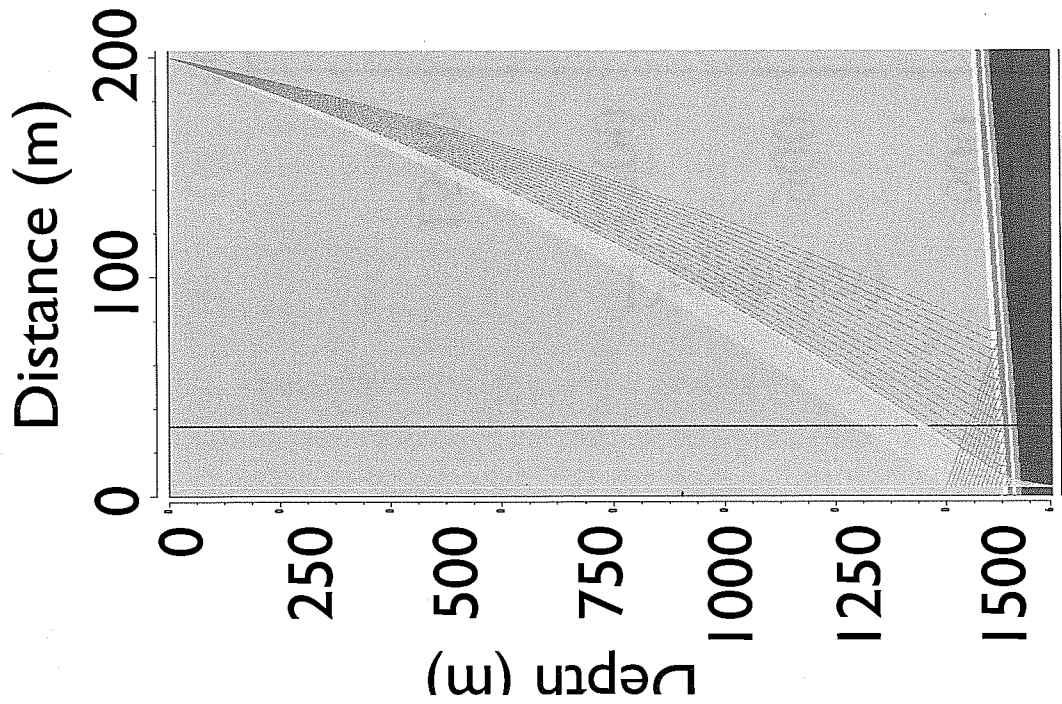


Figure 1a (left) Schematic of VSP data acquisition with direct raypaths (yellow), reflected raypaths (blue), and boreholes (yellow and purple vertical lines)  
 1b) (right) Schematic of crosswell acquisition with sensors (green) and sources (red) in separate boreholes (yellow and purple) with raypaths in yellow.

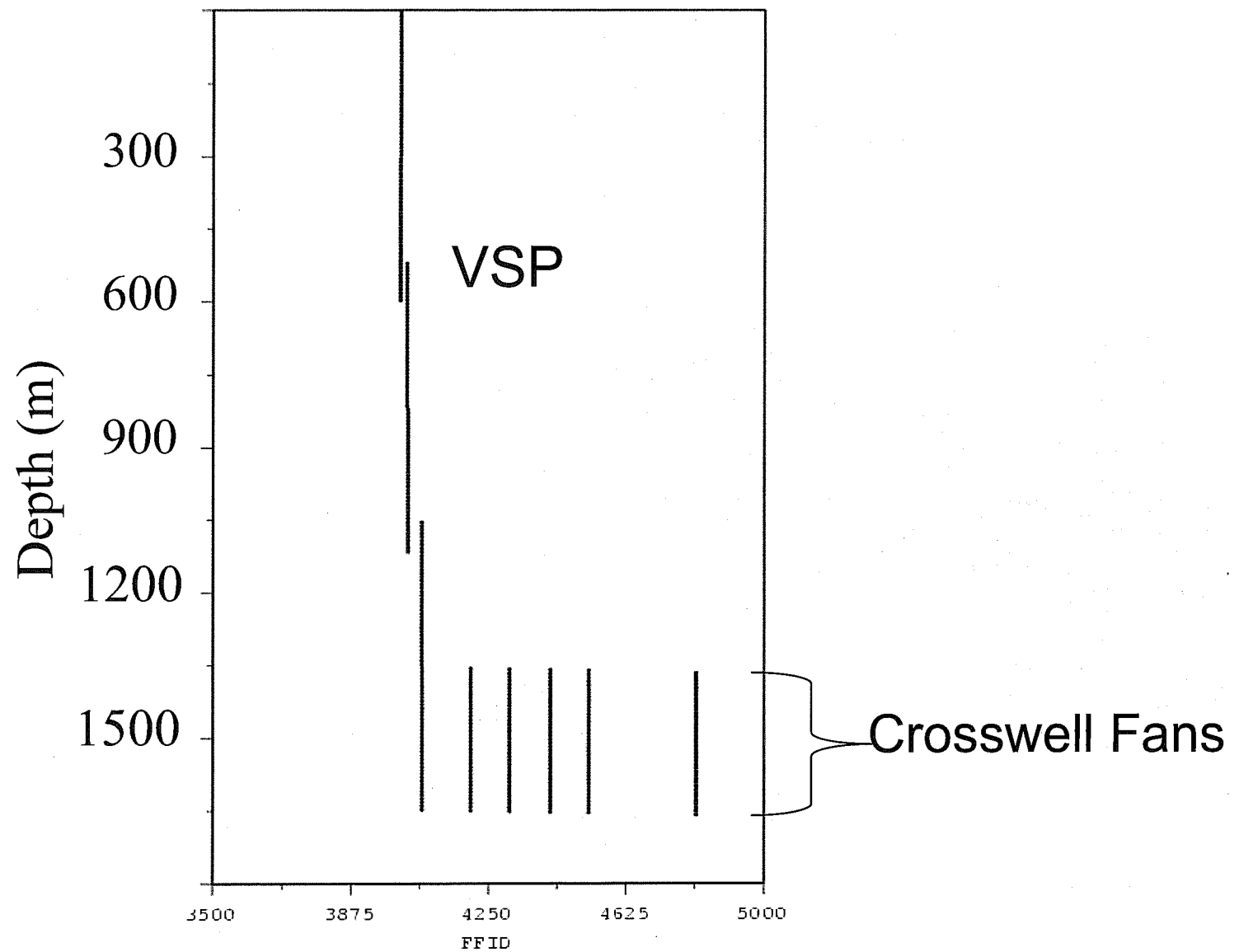


Figure 2. Sensor string deployment depths with each line segment representing one deployment. FFID is the field file identification number. For the crosswell deployments only the bottom half of the



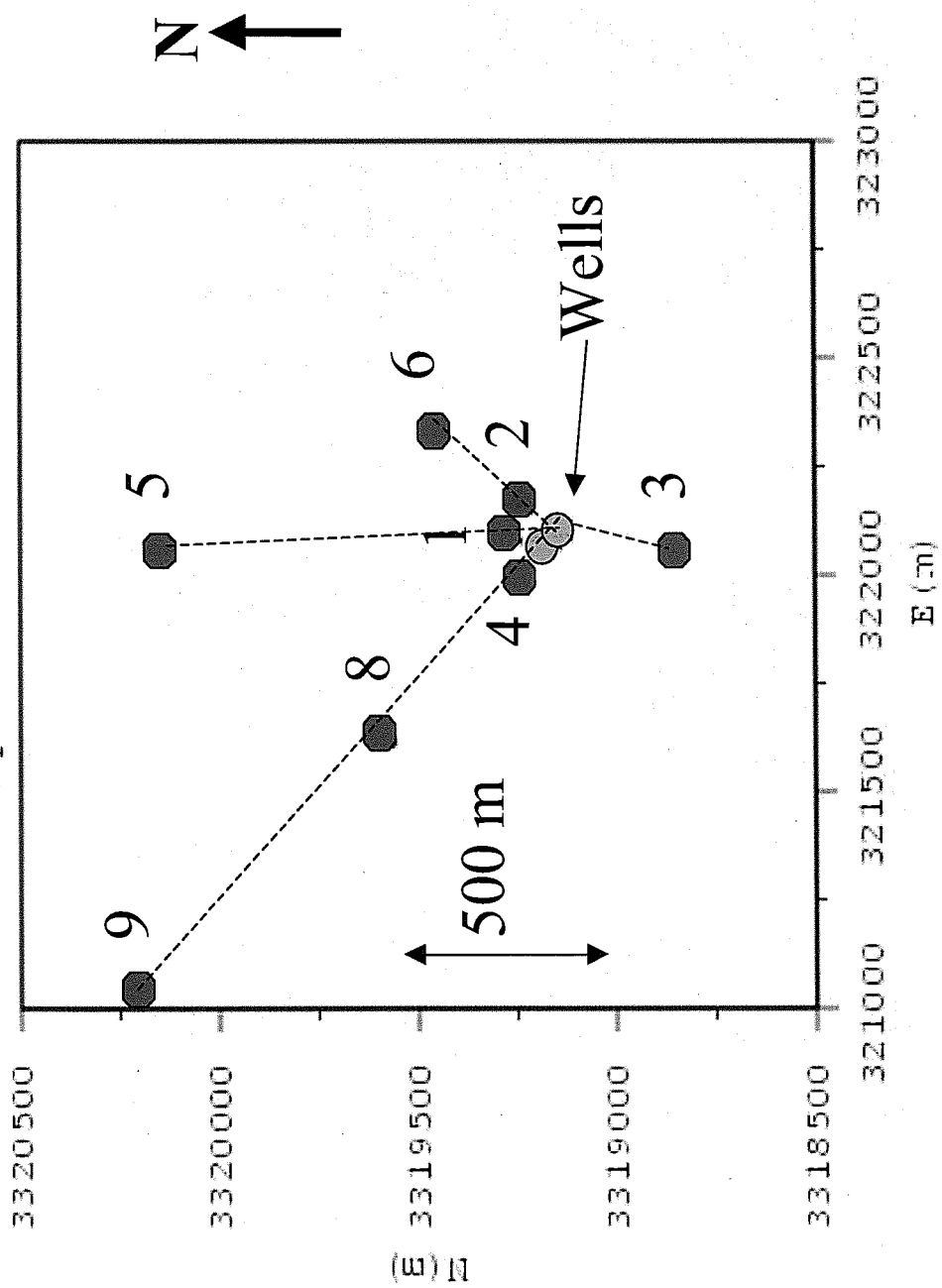


Figure 3. VSP shot point locations along with the two wells (in light blue).

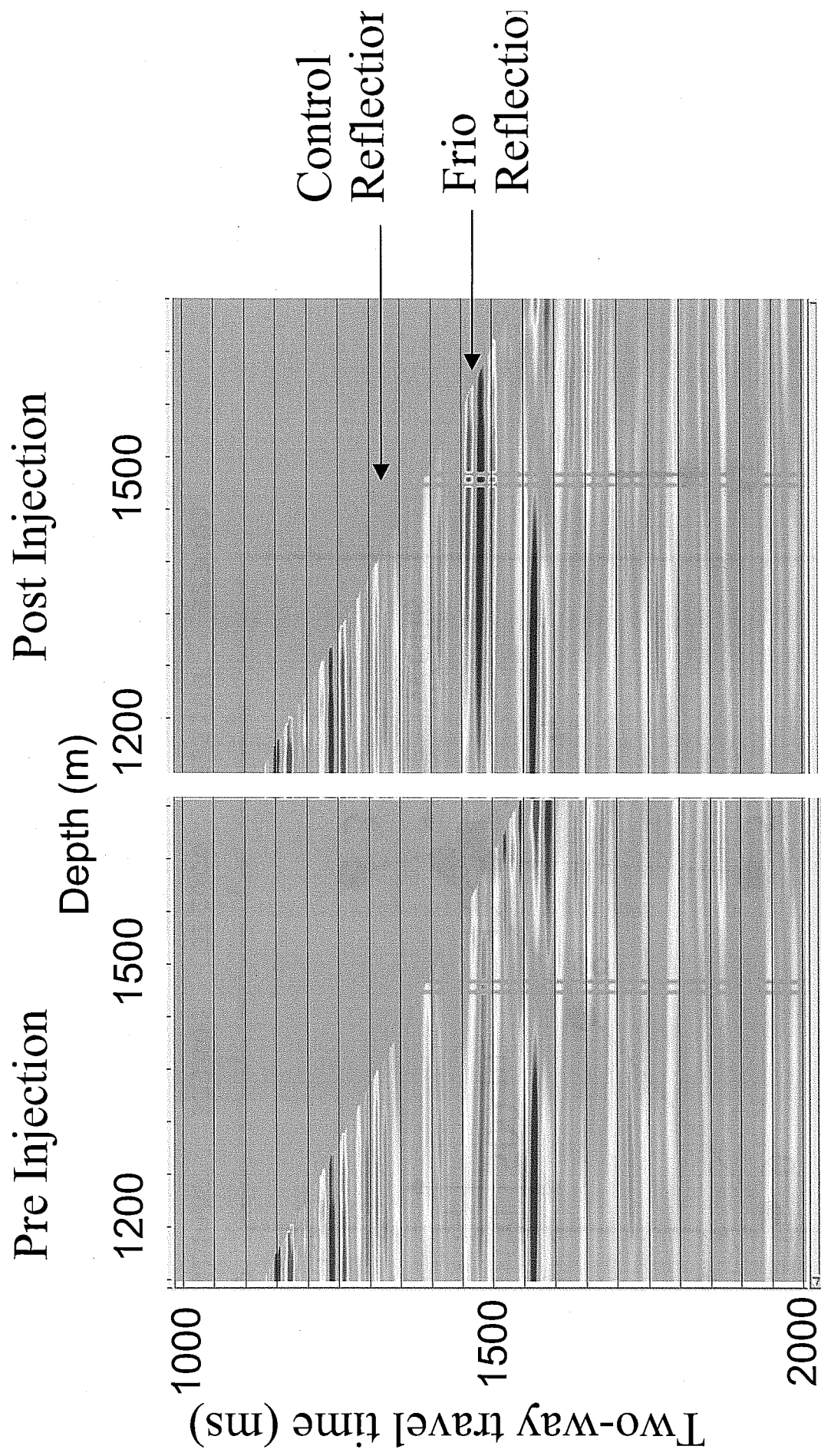


Figure 4. VSP reflection amplitude comparison. A large increase in amplitude is observed for the Frio reflection. The control reflection is the one used for amplitude normalization between surveys.

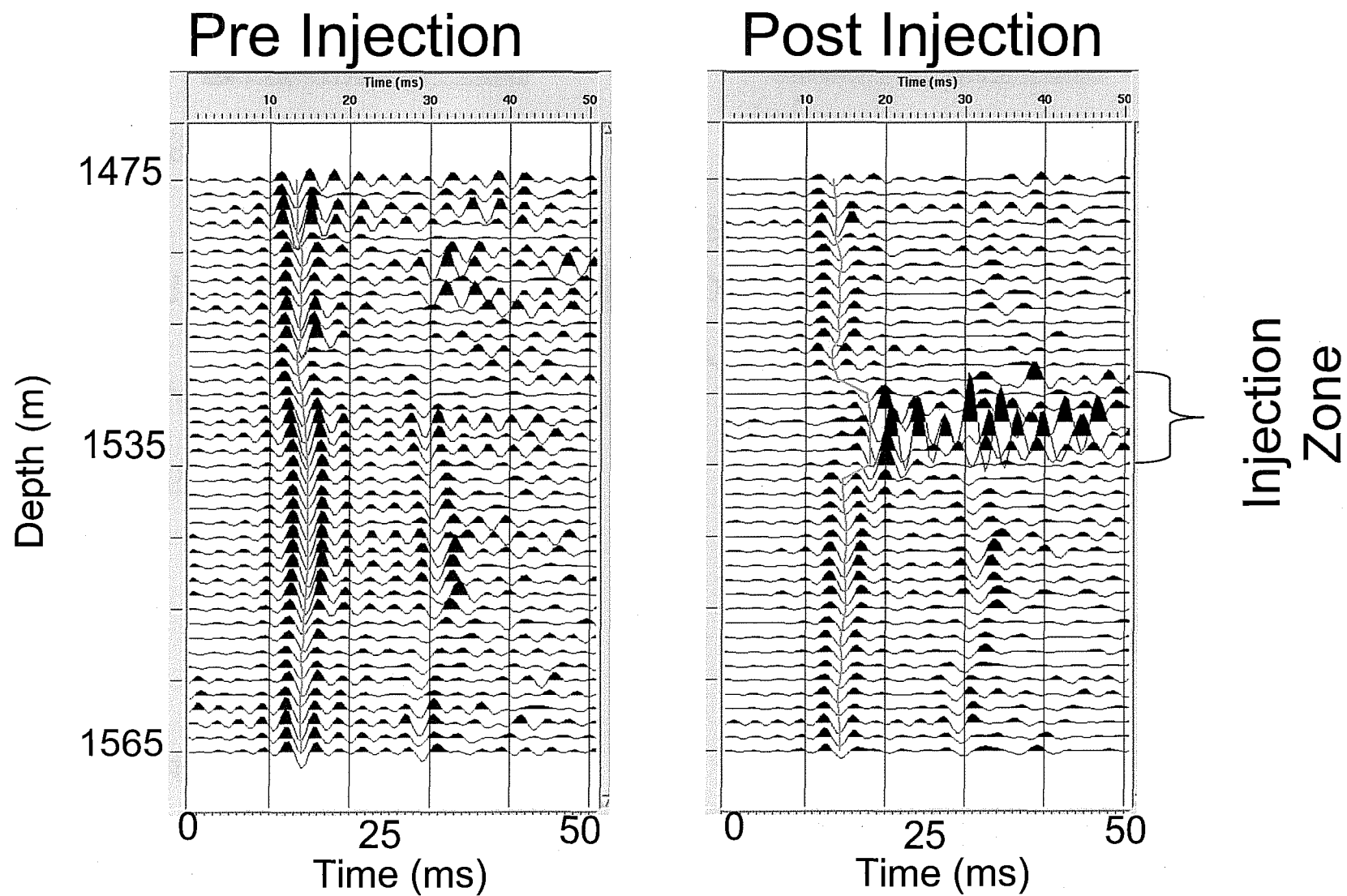


Figure 5. Comparison of zero-offset gathers from the crosswell survey. A decrease in travel time within the injection zone can be observed.

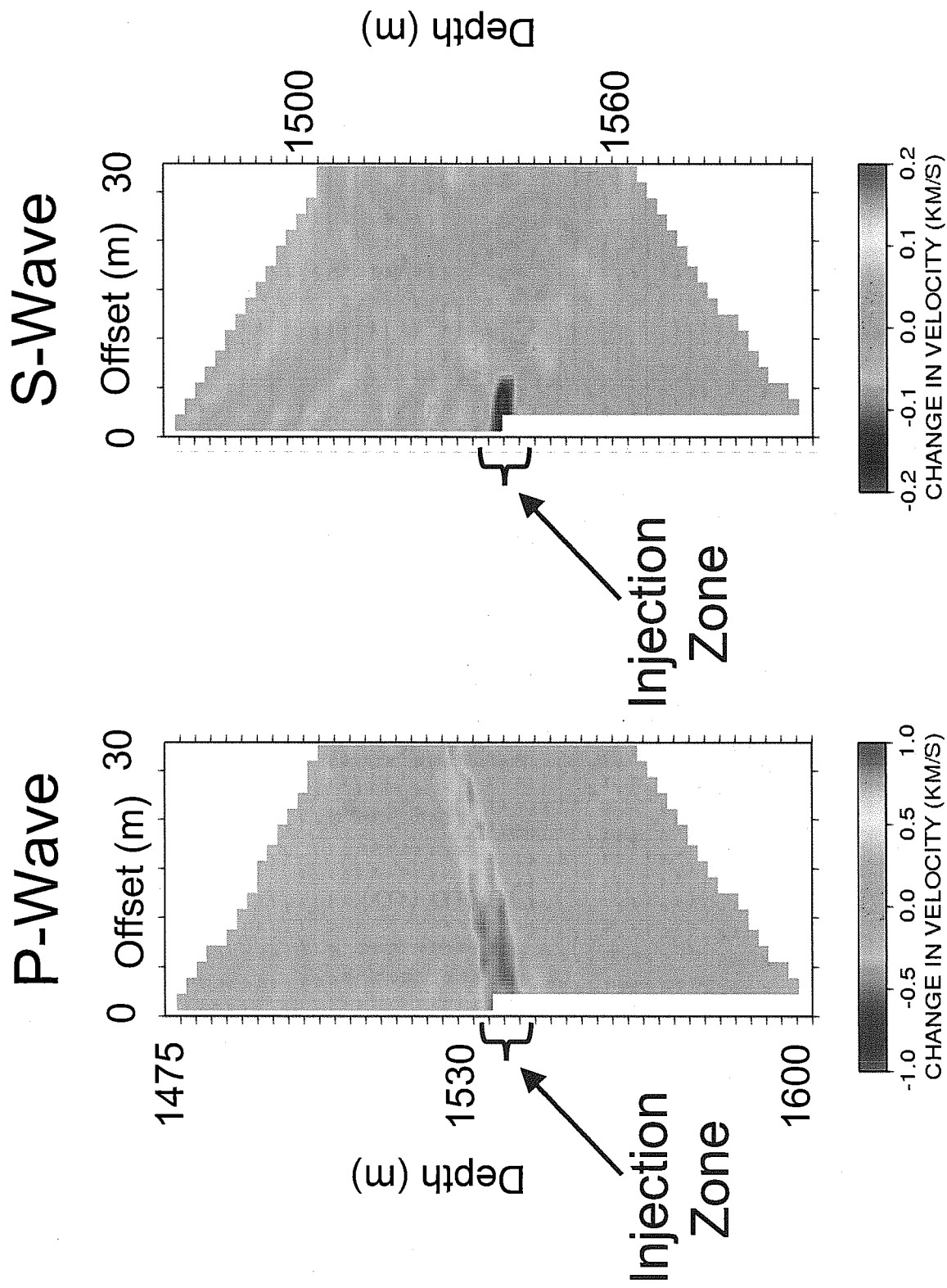


Figure 6. Tomographic image of P-wave velocity change (left) and S-wave velocity change (right) from the crosswell survey.

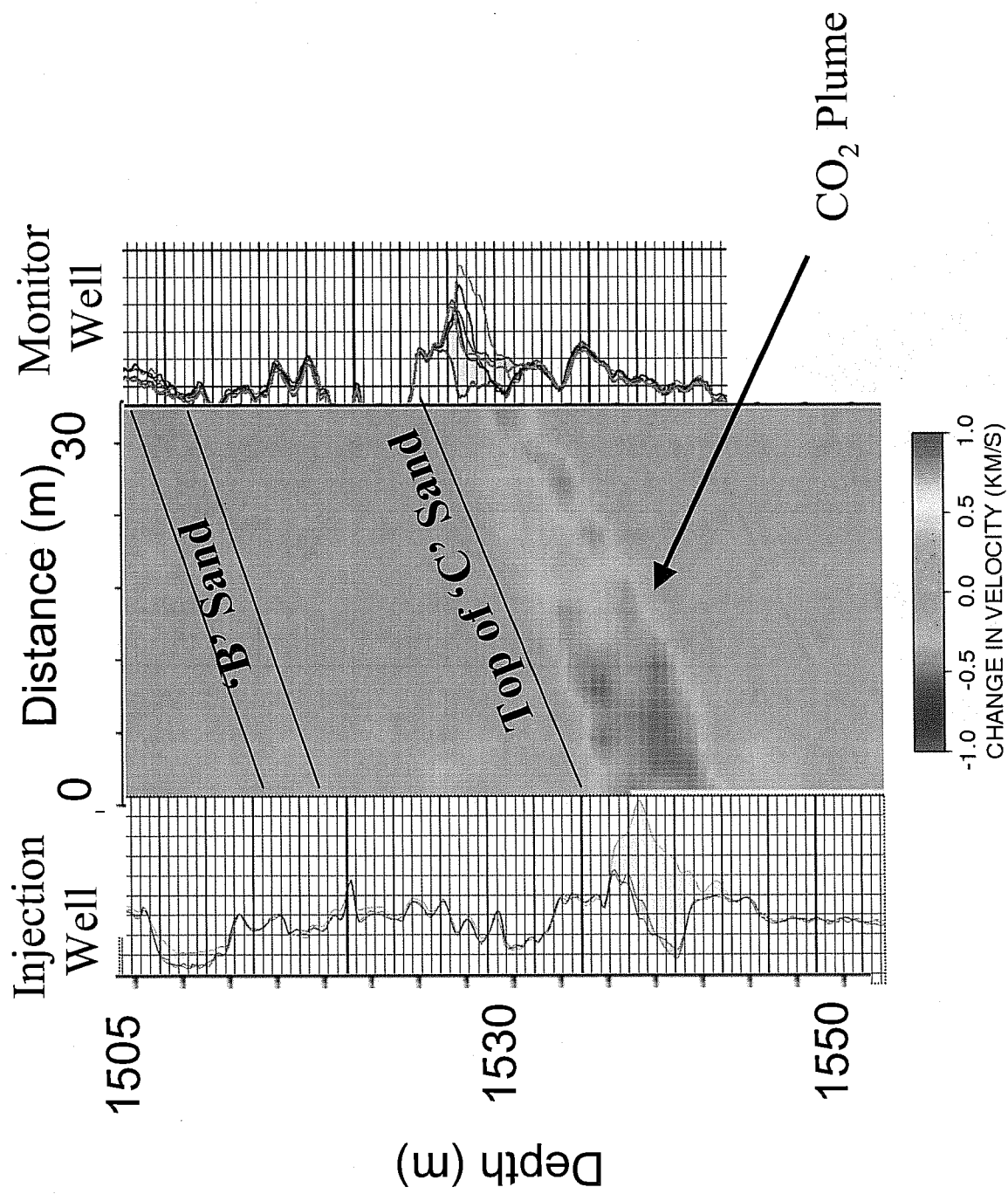


Figure 7. Detailed view of the injection region of the P-wave tomogram along with RST logs for each well. The RST log had multiple runs with the change shown in yellow.

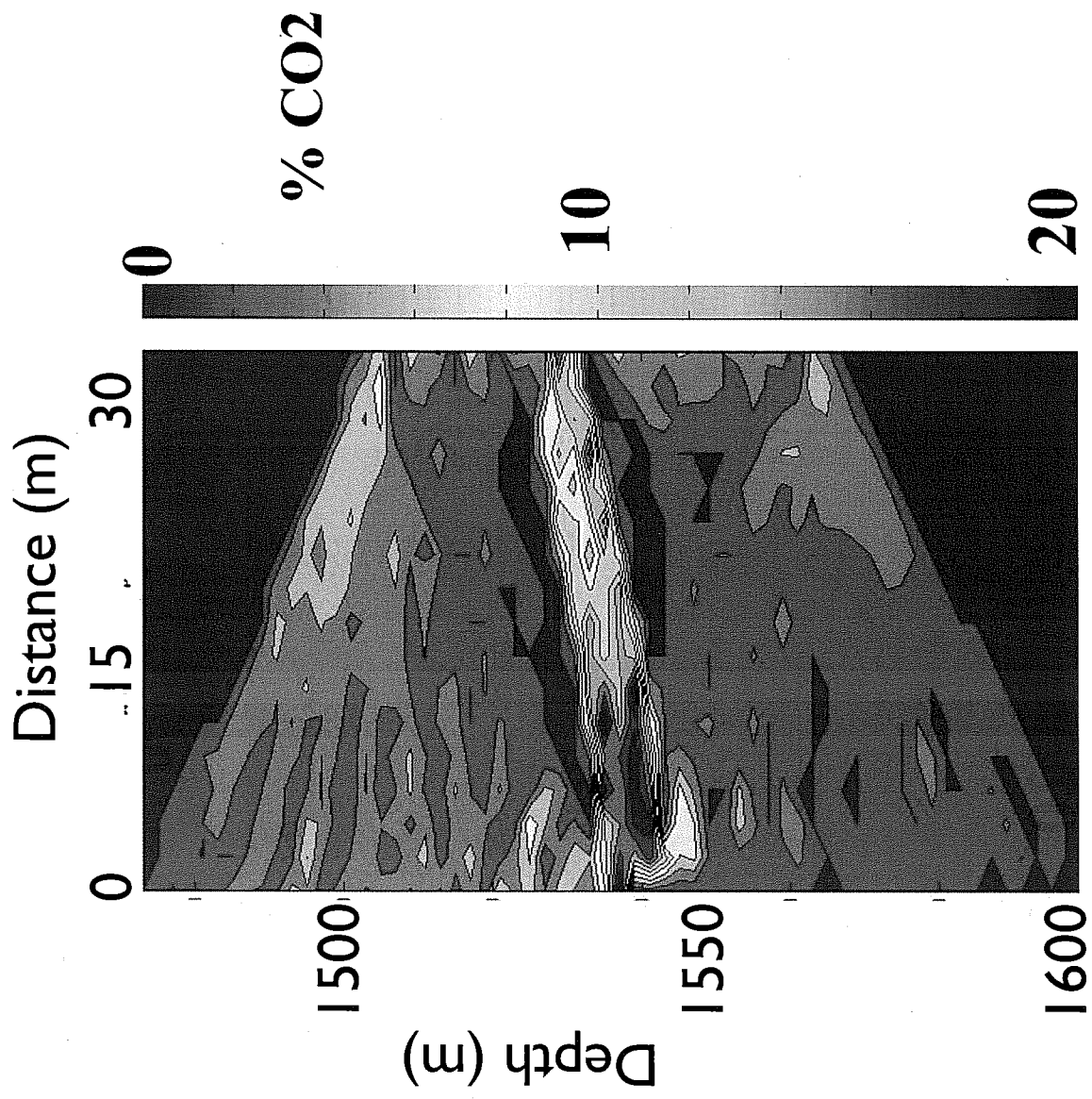


Figure 8. CO<sub>2</sub> saturation estimated from the P-wave velocity change using a rock physics model.

**December 1, 2004**

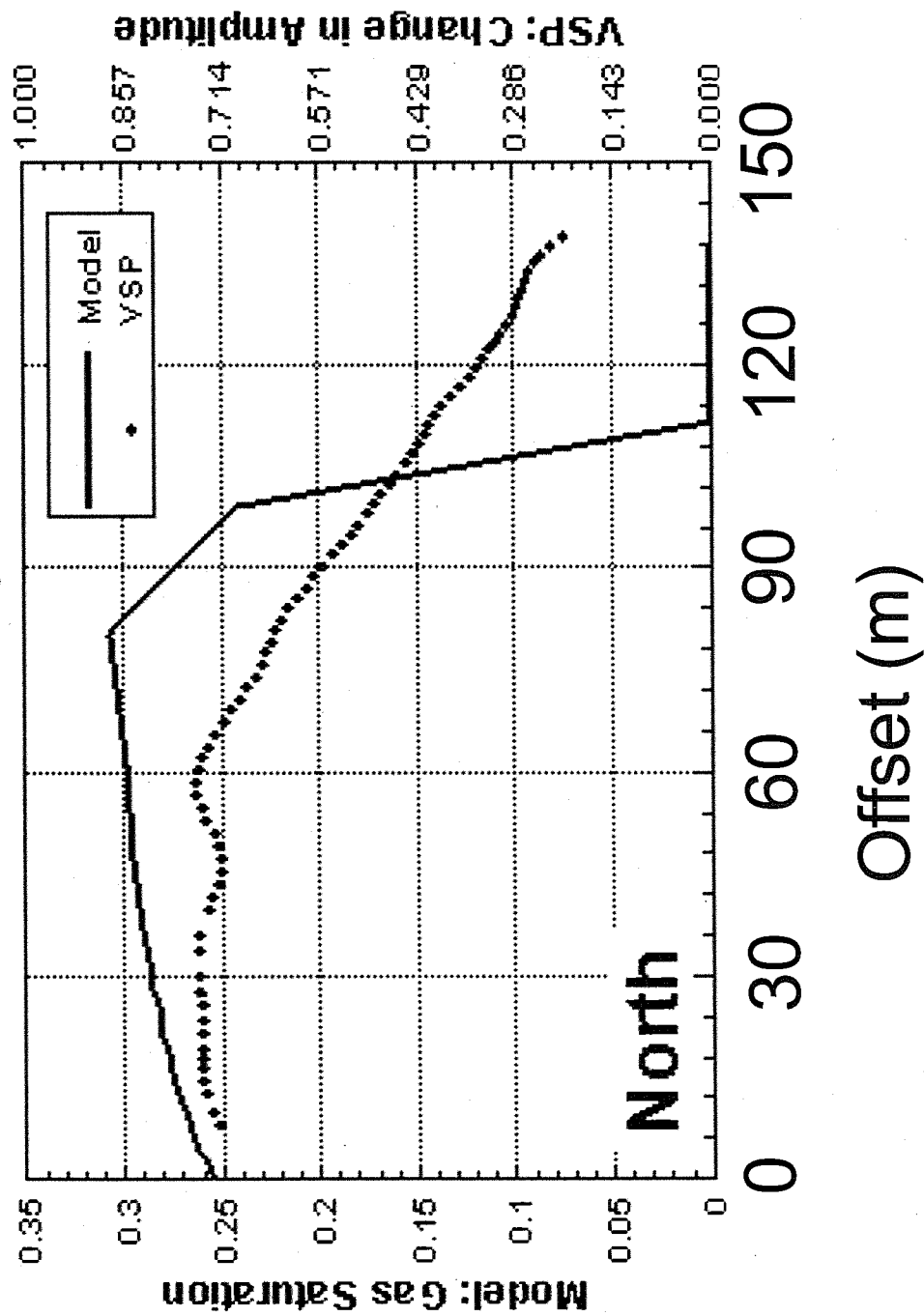


Figure 9. VSP reflection amplitude change compared with CO2 saturation estimated by flow modeling, as a function of offset from the injection well on the Northern azimuth.

November 30, 2004  
 Usual  $S_{gmaxz}$ ,  $S_{lr}$

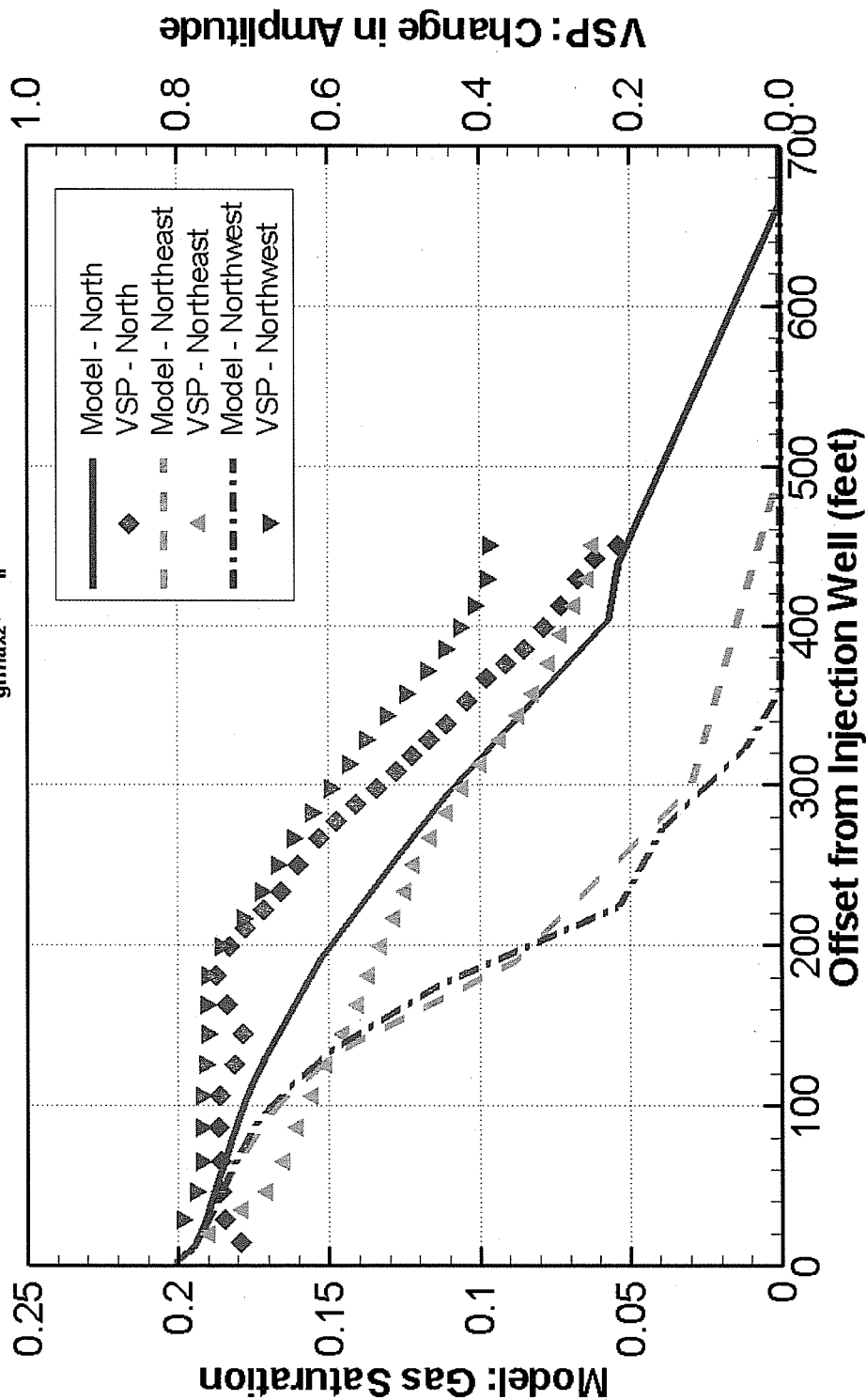


Figure 10 VSP reflection amplitude change compared with CO2 saturation estimated by flow modeling, as a function of offset from the injection well on three azimuths.



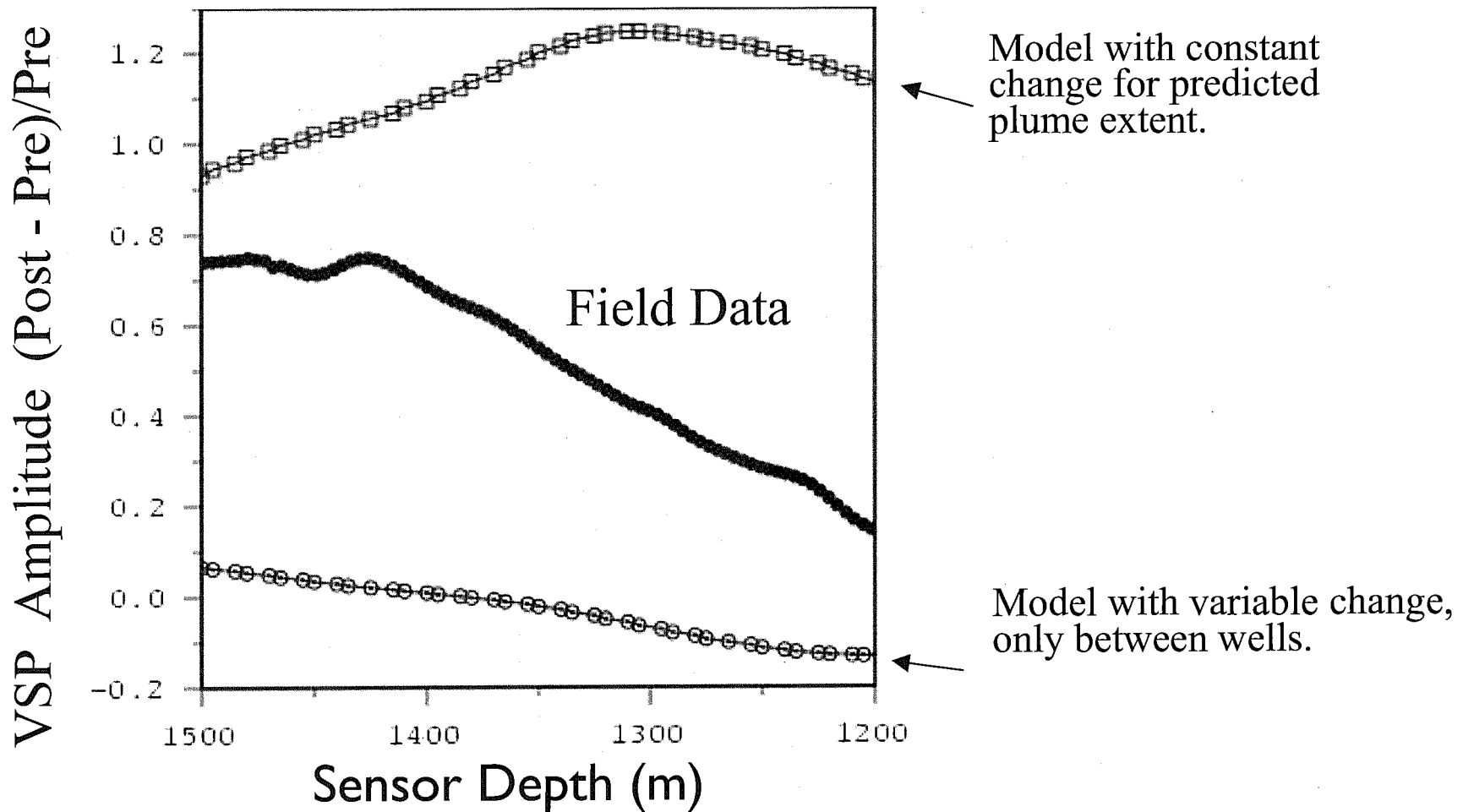


Figure 11. Numerical modeling of VSP reflection amplitude change compared to field data. The model using the predicted plume extent extends the velocity change over more than 130 m laterally, While the variable change model only had velocity change between the wells (about 30 m).

